

# Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

July/August 2007

Volume 2, Number 7

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#### **Newsletter Editor:**

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# I-5 LANE CLOSURES: August 10<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Is Your Healthcare Facility Ready?

- Major rehabilitation of northbound I-5 between Spokane Street and I-90 will begin 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, lasting through Wednesday, Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Crews will close several lanes of northbound I-5, 24 hours a day, including workdays, leaving only approximately half of the lanes open to traffic.
- This will cause significant traffic congestion in areas south of downtown Seattle. Expect heavy traffic on alternate routes including city streets in Georgetown, SODO, Rainier Valley and Beacon Hill. Congestion is also expected on I-405 and State Route 99.
- There will be multiple ramp closures during weekends. For example, James Street exit from NB I-5 will be closed August 10 to 13. Additional closure information is available at: <a href="https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair">www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair</a>

#### Lengthy backups and significant delays are expected.

The Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC) will be monitoring the impact on the healthcare system throughout the closures. A series of bulletins will be released to assist with planning for this event and keeping you informed. For copies of the bulletins please visit:

http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/rmrc.htm or contact Allison Schletzbaum, RMRC Project Manager at aschletz@u.washington.edu



#### Messaging

Public Information Officers and other hospital staff can receive information directly from the King County Office of Emergency Management regarding the closures and other emergency events by subscribing to the Regional Public Information Network (RPIN). To signup, visit: <a href="https://www.rpin.org">www.rpin.org</a> PHSKC has provided all hospital PIO contact information to the Communications team at WSDOT to ensure that they receive the most current information during the closures.

WSDOT has developed prescripted messages for staff. Please visit the Employer Resources Section at:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/SpokaneStreetBridgeRepair/CommunityOutreach.htm

#### Sign up for e-mail updates

To receive the most updated information about the I-5 Spokane Street to I-90 Bridge Repair project please visit:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/EmailUpdates.htm



ROSWELL, Ga.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul 23, 2007 - Despite waning U.S. public concern, the likelihood of a worldwide avian flu pandemic has not lessened, warned former Surgeons General Dr. C. Everett Koop and Dr. David Satcher.

Speaking during the Firestorm Solutions meetings last week, Drs. Koop and Satcher classified the threat as "very real."

"The pattern makes you believe the likelihood of a pandemic - (probably) avian flu - is very real," Satcher said."You have to believe it's around the corner somewhere."

A recent Ipsos-Public Affairs poll indicated

only 27 percent of U.S. adults are concerned about bird flu in this country, down eight points in a year. Just 17 percent of respondents said they were worried about themselves or someone in their household getting avian flu.

Drs. Koop and Satcher expressed concern this country is in disaster denial. "People don't want to face the reality of things like pandemic, hurricanes, etc." said Koop, a member of Firestorm's Expert Council. "The anxiety is tough to face, and as a result, people choose not to accept the burden."

Added Satcher: "We're not adequately prepared for the next pandemic. There are many things we need to do, both at home (personally) and medically."

"We're fighting today's pandemic with the same tools we had 100 years ago," Koop said.

For the full article, please visit:

http://www.pharmalive.com/News/index.cfm?articleid=461139 &categoryid=10

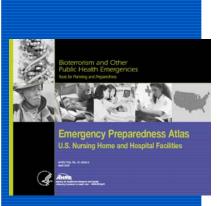
# AHRQ Releases Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Resources

On July 19, 2007 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released its *Emergency Preparedness Atlas: U.S. Nursing Home and Hospital Facilities* as part of its series "Bioterrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies: Tools for Planning and Preparedness."

The atlas is intended to support state and local medical surge capacity planning and response by identifying healthcare facilities in a region that may be available and able to provide assistance to a community in an emergency. For the Full Atlas please visit:

http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/nursinghomes/atlas.htm







# HHS to Provide \$896.7 Million to States to Enhance Public Health Preparedness and Response

On July 17, 2007, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt, announced the award of \$896.7 million in FY2007 grants to states, territories, and four metropolitan areas "to improve and sustain their ability to respond to public health emergencies."

The funding, to be coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will be used to improve preparedness and response to all-hazards public health emergencies including terrorism, pandemic influenza, and other naturally-occurring public health emergencies.

According to Secretary Leavitt, these latest grants will allow "state, local, territorial, and tribal public health jurisdictions to build upon preparedness gains that have been made over the past five years of federal funding."

This latest funding announcement comes after last month's announcement by HHS of an award of \$430 million in FY2007 grants to states, territories, and four metropolitan areas to better prepare healthcare networks "to respond to bioterror attacks, infectious disease, and natural disasters that may cause mass casualties."

During the past five years, HHS has provided more than \$7 billion to preparedness-related programs through the CDC, the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

For a full funding distribution table see: http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/07/pr20070717c.html

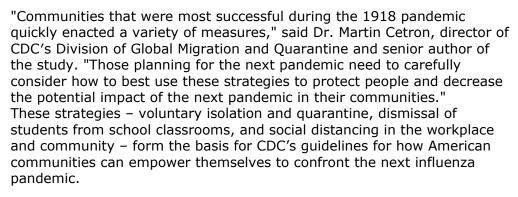
# All shectures CLOSED until further NOTICE ARTOR

Public gathering places were ordered closed by the leaders of many major cities.

# Community Measures Prevent Deaths During Pandemic, New Study Finds August 7, 2007 - CDC

School closures and other community strategies designed to reduce the possibility of spreading disease between people during an epidemic can save lives, particularly when the measures are used in combination and implemented soon after an outbreak begins in a community, according to a new study based on public records from the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic.

The findings, which are published in the Aug. 8 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, provide vital clues to help public officials planning for the next influenza pandemic and highlight the importance of community strategies. These strategies are particularly important because the intervention most likely to provide the best protection against pandemic influenza -- a vaccine -- is unlikely to be available at the outset of a pandemic. Community strategies that delay or reduce the impact of a pandemic (also called non-pharmaceutical interventions) may help reduce the spread of disease until a vaccine that is well-matched to the virus is available.



The full report can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/2007/r070807.htm

## Coalition of 18 Health Organizations Releases Recommendations for Improved Disaster Response July 18, 2007 - AMA

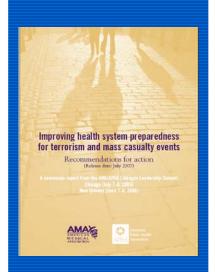
Today a coalition of 18 health organizations led by the American Medical Association (AMA) and American Public Health Association (APHA) released a consensus report with 53 strategic recommendations for legislators, government officials and organizational leaders to more effectively prepare for and respond to catastrophic emergencies. The recommendations, especially nine identified as "critical," serve as a national call to action from medicine, dentistry, nursing, hospitals, emergency medical services (EMS), and public health. The recommendations seek to strengthen health system preparedness and response through increased funding, greater integration, continued education and training and ensured legal protections for responders.

"Most disasters are unplanned, but the response shouldn't be," said AMA President Ronald M. Davis, MD. "Whether disasters are natural or manmade, infectious disease pandemics or terrorist attacks, physicians, health care professionals and public health workers must be prepared to respond to emergencies and aid in the recovery efforts that follow. We can't predict when a disaster will strike, but as first responders, we can better prepare ourselves and others to protect the health and safety of our patients and citizens."

Nine critical recommendations from the consensus report make up a call to action in four categories:

- Public health systems must be appropriately funded to adequately respond to day-to-day emergencies and catastrophic mass casualty events;
- Public health and disaster response systems must be fully integrated and interoperable at all government levels;
- Health care and public health professionals should maintain an appropriate level of education and training; and
- Health care and public health responders must be provided and assured adequate legal protections in a disaster.

The full report can be found at: <a href="http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/6206.html">http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/6206.html</a>





# Seattle and King County Public Health on the Move to a New Location

Public Health Seattle & King County will be moving administration and several programs into the New King County Office Building in downtown Seattle. No disruptions in service are expected, but contact information will change. Public Health Centers across the county will not be affected by the move. The mailing address of the new building will be **401 Fifth Avenue**, **Seattle**, **WA**, **98104**.

- Most staff phone numbers will change, but calls to existing numbers will be redirected for three months after the move. Importantly, all public contact phone numbers, such as the main Public Health phone line and information hotlines, will not change.
- Addresses and phone numbers for all Public Health offices and locations may be found at www.metrokc.gov/health. For additional assistance in reaching Public Health staff and programs, call 206-296-4600.

## King County Healthcare Coalition

The King County Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to strengthening the Healthcare System for emergencies. The following workgroups currently meet as part of the King County Healthcare Coalition to address preparedness issues in the healthcare community.

Committee/Workgroup	Staff
Healthcare Coalition Development	Cynthia Dold, (206) 263-8715 Cynthia.dold@kingcounty.gov
Healthcare Coalition Administrative Staff	Lydia Ortega, (206) 263-8721 Lydia.ortega@kingcounty.gov
Ambulatory Care Committee	Aimee Welch, (206) 263-8719 aimee.welch@kingcounty.gov
Alternate Care Facilities	Tony Cebollero, (206) 263-8718 Anthony.Cebollero@kingcounty.gov
Critical Care Workgroup	Lewis Rubinson, MD, (206) 263-8716 lewis.rubinson@kingcounty.gov
Hospital Emergency Prep Committee	Danica Mann, 206-947-5565 Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org
Infectious Disease Workgroup	Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171 Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov
Legal Workgroup	Amy Eiden, (206) 296-901 amy.eiden@kingcounty.gov
Long Term Care & Home Health Planning	Carlos Dominguez, (206) 263-8710 Carlos.Dominguez@kingcounty.org
Medical Director's Committee	Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171 Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov
Mental Health Planning	Michelle McDaniel, (206) 263-8712 Michelle.McDaniel@kingcounty.gov
Puget Sound Call Center Coordination	Joe Cropley, 206-517-2383 cropley@wapc.org
Regional Medical Resource Center	Allison Schletzbaum, 206-744-6213 aschletz@u.washington.edu





#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Software Operational Planning Meetings:

   August 3, 2007
   August 17, 2007
   August 31, 2007
   All Meetings from 12.30-2.00 PM
- Alternate Care Facility
   Walkthrough at the
   Seattle Center
   August 6, 2007
   1.00 3.00 PM
- Pharmaceutical Task
   Force: August 23, 2007
   8.30 10.00 AM
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee: August 30, 2007 7.30 - 10.00 AM

# The Healthcare Coalition meeting calendar for 2007 is also available on the website:

http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/2007-calendar.pdf

### Coalition Workgroup & Committee Updates

Outlined below are current updates for some of the King County Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional information.

#### **ASPR Grant Funding Update**

On July 5, 2007 the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the Department of Health and Human Services released a new competitive preparedness opportunity for healthcare partnerships or coalitions. This is the first year this grant has been made available and would be in addition to the noncompetitive hospital preparedness grant that King County has received over the last 3 years. ASPR grants are intended to improve surge capacity and enhance healthcare preparedness for public health emergencies in defined geographical areas. The King County Healthcare Coalition is a very competitive applicant based on our extensive experience in building a broad-based coalition that addresses a wide range of medical surge capacity issues. With support from the King County Healthcare Coalition Executive Council we have submitted an application for multiple projects. These projects would address:

- Further development of the Regional Medical Resource Center to manage the region-wide health and medical response
- Strengthen our ability to manage medical staffing resources during an emergency
- Development of a regional patient transport and evacuation plan, and
- Increasing preparedness and operational capabilities among healthcare organizations that serve vulnerable populations.

We will keep you posted as we hear more regarding the application.

#### **Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee**

- Hospitals are wrapping up their Training and Exercise HRSA/ASPR funds. All reimbursement claims are to be submitted to WSHA by August 31, 2007.
- A training and exercise calendar has been created and provided to the hospitals to help keep track of the busy schedule over the next few years.
- At the request of the region, a local HICS course has been scheduled for November 7, 2007. This class will be 4 hours in length and is intended to familiarize participants with the new HICS materials. We will be utilizing local instructors. Space will be limited.

#### **Mass Fatalities Planning**

• Starting this month the Healthcare Coalition will begin planning on mass fatality management. Onora Lien, Mass Fatality Response Manager with Public Health, will be leading this initiative with an initial focus on hospitals. This work aims to develop a regional hospital strategy for managing a surge of fatalities that may result from an emergency or disaster. It will include assisting hospitals with developing fatality management plans to meet the FY2007 ASPR

- Hospital Preparedness requirement.
- The first step in this planning process will be collecting data on the regional mortuary resource capacity among the hospitals. The RMRC will be asking each facility to complete a short survey to help us assess regional capacity including existing morgue capacity and availability of body bags. The survey deadline is August 15, 2007.
- For More Information please contact Onora Lien: 206-263-8717
- Onora.Lien@kingcounty.gov

#### **Mental Health Planning**

- Michelle McDaniel is working with inpatient and outpatient mental health and chemical dependency treatment providers to evaluate current capacity and assess needs for maintaining service delivery in a post-disaster environment. This includes evaluating the necessity and feasibility of developing a psychiatric alternate care facility plan.
- Michelle has developed a 1 hour Disaster Mental Health/Psychological First Aid Training which includes review of short and long term mental health consequences of disaster. She has been delivering this training to organizations throughout the region.
- Planning has begun for a June 2008 earthquake scenario table-top exercise for chemical dependency providers in King County.

#### Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

- The official kickoff meetings for KCHealthTrac, the new incident management software for the Healthcare Coalition, occurred in late June.
- Work continues on planning issues for the Incident Software implementation. The operational workgroup is exploring topics such as security profiles, use of patient and staff tracking tools, and reporting functionality.
- Resource requesting protocols are nearing completion and have been vetted through multiple workgroups for feedback and approval.
- TSP rates in Washington State have gone down for Qwest customers! This exciting news aligns with our Phase 2 TSP application process which will be completed by July 31, 2007.

#### **Alternate Care Facilities Project**

- A multi-agency site visit to Seattle Center is scheduled for August 6, 2007. This is an opportunity to present a vision of how the Seattle Center may operate as an alternate care facility and will help to highlight some of the key areas where the support and expertise of partners is needed in further planning.
- An alternate care facilities handout and memorandum of understanding have been drafted and are ready for use.
- •Tony Cebollero had an initial visit with officials in Federal Way concerning use of their Community Center as a Medication Center and/or ACF. A follow-up meeting is currently being scheduled.

#### **King County Call Center Project**

- Recently, Joe Cropley presented an overview of the call center project to representatives of the insurance industry at a Coalition Health Insurer's meeting.
- Joe also met with a call center software vendor for a demonstration of their product which is currently being utilized by the Denver Health Department call center.
- The RMRC software operational planning team has invited Joe to participate on the team in order to incorporate call center planning into workable databases utilizing the new KCHealthTrac.

## **Training Opportunities**

Note: The following list of available training opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each training.

#### **ICS Training**

#### Zone 1 - ICS 300\*

September 13-14, 2007 – Woodinville Fire, Station 31, Contact: Chief Bob Whipple <a href="mailto:bwhipple@wflsd.org">bwhipple@wflsd.org</a>

#### Zone 1 - ICS 400\*

September 19-20, 2007 – Woodinville Fire, Station 31, Contact; Chief Bob Whipple <a href="mailto:bwhipple@wflsd.org">bwhipple@wflsd.org</a>

#### Zone 3 - ICS 300\*

January 16-17, 2008 – Auburn Emergency Management, Contact: Auburn Emergency Management at emergencyprep@auburnwa.gov or call 253.876.1909

#### Zone 5 - ICS 300\*

August 13-14, 2007 – Seattle Police Department Training Unit Grant Tietje grant.tietje@seattle.gov

September 10-11, 2007 – Seattle Police Department Training Unit Grant Tietje grant.tietje@seattle.gov

#### Zone 5 - ICS 400\*

August 15-16, 2007 – Seattle Police Department Training Unit Grant Tietje grant.tietje@seattle.gov

## Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) and Extensively-Drug Resistant (XDR) TB

#### A Web-based Seminar

August 17, 2007 11:00-12:30pm PDT

Target Audience: State and local TB program staff and other clinicians who diagnose and treat TB.

For registration visit:

http://www.nationaltbcenter.edu/training/MDRXDRTB/webinar.html

# Public Health Responds to Avian Influenza Outbreaks in Commercial Poultry: Lessons from Nigeria Webcast

August 28, 2007 12:00 - 1:00 PM PDT

Online interactive session that will provide insight into the lessons learned from the field experience during active public health surveillance for human avian influenza.

To register visit: www.nwcphp.org/htip

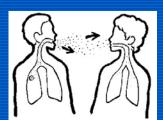
# Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Clinical Education Webcast

September 20, 2007 9am to 10am

Goal: To enhance diagnosis, reporting, and treatment of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by clinicians and healthcare providers.

To access this webcast, visit:

http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/webcast/COPoisonPrev



#### Legend:

- \* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through HRSA funding
- \*\* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through Homeland Security funding.

For questions regarding the reimbursement processes, please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org

#### **Sound Shake Seminar**

September 27, 2007 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Community Center at Mercer View, Mercer Island

Cost: No Cost

Earthquake Seminar designed to identify regional impacts and interdependencies associated with a catastrophic Seattle Fault

Earthquake.

To Register: Registration is full

#### **HICS Training**

November 7, 2007 8am to 12pm

Location: KCECC Cost: No Cost

This regional class will be held as an orientation to the new HICS materials. Planning is currently underway, please save the date, more

information to follow!

## Training Curriculum

#### **Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care**

Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care is a new course designed to provide the latest clinical information regarding blast-related injuries from terrorism. The course is available in multiple formats with a CD-ROM/Web-based interactive course planned for release later in 2007. It is supported by the CDC's Terrorism Injuries Information, Dissemination and Exchange (TIIDE) Project.

#### **Course Content**

- Background on Terrorism and Explosive Devices
- Bombing Events
- Blast Injuries

#### Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Quaternary

- Crush Injuries and Compartment Syndrome
- Military Experience
- Special Considerations
- Psychological Issues

#### The course can be downloaded at:

http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/bombings\_injurycare.asp

## **Upcoming Conferences**

Note: The following list of available conference opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each conference.

#### Really Ready - Disaster Preparedness for Long Term Care

September 5-6, 2007

Location: Garden Grove, California

Cost: \$149.00 Registration For more information, visit:

http://www.cahf.org/public/dpp/conference.php







#### Innovations in Disaster Psychology 2007: Public Health Emergencies

September 6-8, 2007

Location: University of South Dakota

Cost: Starts at \$425

For more information, visit:

http://www.usd.edu/dmhi/conference.cfm

#### 2007 National Summit on Primary Care Emergency Preparedness

September 19, 2007

Location: Sheraton New York, New York City

Cost: Starts at \$250

For more information, visit:

http://www.pcdcny.org/programs/emerging\_initiatives/case\_st

udies/emerg\_mgmt.html

#### Disaster Planning for California Hospitals

September 24-26, 2007

Location: Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento CA

Cost: Starts at \$225

For more information, visit:

http://www.calhealth.org/public/edu/gms/2007DisasterPlannin

g.htm

#### Emergency Nurses Association Annual Conference

September 26-29, 2007 Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Cost: Starts at \$195

For more information, visit:

http://www.ena.org/conferences/annual/2007/default.asp

#### Partners in Preparedness - Save the Date

April 1-2, 2008

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

For more information, visit:

http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/





September 21, 2007, 8am to 12pm

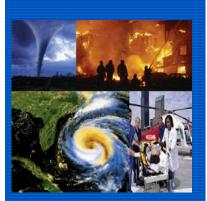
City of Seattle will be holding a tabletop exercise to help prepare for severe winter weather. Hospitals in Zone 5 are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Grant Tietje at <a href="mailto:grant.tietje@seattle.gov">grant.tietje@seattle.gov</a>

#### Medical Services Team Radio Drill

September 29, 2007

The ARES Medical Services Team (MST) will be conducting a radio drill testing alternate communications based on a severe weather scenario. Hospitals will be contacted to see what sites are available to participate. For more information, please contact Marina Zuetell at

Zuetell@comcast.net or 206,524,6567





#### Mass Fatalities Tabletop Exercise

October 25, 2007 1:00 - 4:00pm

Public Health and the King County Medical Examiner's Office will be hosting a pandemic flu mass fatality management tabletop exercise on October 25. This tabletop will bring together multiple disciplines, including funeral directors, public health, healthcare, vital statistics and first responders to look at issues related to managing a large number of deaths that could occur from a pandemic influenza outbreak.

#### Sound Shake 2008 - March 5, 2008

The Seattle UASI area (comprised of King, Pierce, Snohomish Counties, City of Seattle and City of Bellevue) obtained a grant to develop and execute a Seattle Fault Catastrophic Earthquake exercise. It will be a tricounty, functional exercise. The deadline for committing to participate in this exercise is September 30, 2007. All Region 6 Hospitals will be participating, a commitment has already been made on behalf of the King County Healthcare Coalition.

For more information about the exercise, please visit: http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/SoundShake08.aspx

Puget Sound Energy Lessons Learned from 2006 Windstorm
Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in July 2007 completed an extensive review of
its performance prior to, during and following the record-breaking
windstorm that hit the Pacific Northwest in mid-December 2006. In
addition to seeking customer and employee feedback through focus
groups, telephone and Web surveys, and internal debriefings, PSE hired
KEMA, an 80-year-old energy consulting firm, to provide an independent,
third-party, five-month analysis of our pre-storm readiness and poststorm response. The KEMA analysis outlined in a July 2 report also
recommended actions PSE can take now to ensure continued service
reliability and improved outage response during future storms and other

For more information, visit:

natural disasters.

http://pse.com/insidePSE/lessonsLearned.aspx

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